

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 027401
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
TRSE-00 NSC-05 /070 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:MPSTRUTZEL
APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY
EUR/SOV:KBROWN
EUR/NE:DJDONCHI
EUR/CE:NLAUDERDALE
OSD/ISA/EUR:DSANDERSON
EUR/RPM:JAFROEBE, JR.
EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR
PM/ISP:MMICHAUD
OJCS(J-5):COL. HARGROVE (INFO)
-----130254 020527Z /14

P R 020011Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USDELMC BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE BE
CINCEUR ECJ-3 VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027401

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, NO, GW, DA, MPOL

SUBJECT: FRG PARTICIPATION IN NATO EXERCISES IN NORWAY
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PAGE 02 STATE 027401

REFS: (A) OSLO 364, 201721 JAN 78 (NOTAL)
(B) USNATO 00680, 201922 JAN 78 (NOTAL)
(C) USNATO 00809, 251532 JAN 78 (NOTAL)
(D) USNATO 00851, 261422 JAN 78 (NOTAL)

1. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD EXPRESS TO NORWAY OUR CONCERN OVER THE ADVERSE EFFECTS THAT ITS RECENT DECISION TO IMPOSE A CEILING OF 480 FRG TROOPS PARTICIPATING IN NATO EXERCISES IN NORWAY IS LIKELY TO HAVE ON THE ALLIANCE POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING PROPOSED APPROACH BY COB FEB 3.

2. THE NORWEGIAN ACTION
RISKS THE FOLLOWING ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR NATO:

-- IT SUGGESTS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST A MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE.

-- IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS YIELDING TO SOVIET PRESSURE, THEREBY CREATING AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT.

-- IT UNDERCUTS A BASIC PURPOSE OF THE ALLIANCE -- TO PROVIDE A MEANS TO FEND OFF SUCH SOVIET PRESSURES.

-- IT HANDICAPS ALLIANCE READINESS TRAINING, A MAJOR PART OF OUR CURRENT EFFORT TO IMPROVE ALLIANCE MILITARY CAPABILITIES.

-- IT VIOLATES NATO'S PRINCIPLE OF PRIOR CONSULTATION ON SUCH MATTERS.

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3. PROPOSED REPRESENTATION TO NORWAY. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD MAKE A REPRESENTATION TO THE NORWEGIANS AT NATO, IN CONCERT WITH OTHER ALLIES, INCLUDING PRIMARILY CANADA, DENMARK, THE FRG, AND THE UK. WE WOULD COMPLEMENT THESE REPRESENTATIONS WITH QUIET FOLLOW-UP APPROACHES IN OSLO AND WASHINGTON. WE APPRECIATE REASONS ADDUCED BY USNATO (REF D) FOR MAKING APPROACH IN OSLO. HOWEVER, WE FAVOR BRUSSELS IN ORDER TO KEEP THIS MATTER CLEARLY IN AN ALLIANCE CONTEXT. GIVEN NORWEGIAN SENSITIVITY, A DEMARCHE AT NATO WOULD BE LESS CONFRONTATIONAL, AND WOULD REINFORCE OUR POINT THAT MEMBERS OF AN ALLIANCE ARE OBLIGATED TO CONSULT ONE ANOTHER BEFORE TAKING ACTIONS OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

4. WE WOULD NOT ASK NORWAY TO REVERSE ITS POSITION AT THIS POINT -- WHICH PROBABLY IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR NORWAY TO DO POLITICALLY -- BUT WE WOULD URGE NORWAY NOT TO IMPOSE THE CEILING IN FUTURE NATO EXERCISES ON ITS TERRITORY. WE BELIEVE THAT ANY CLARIFICATION -- AS PROPOSED BY USNATO -- COULD ONLY BE SELF-DEFEATING.

5. PROPOSED TALKING POINTS.

-- WE ARE DISTURBED OVER WHAT WE UNDERSTAND IS A NORWEGIAN DECISION TO CEASE THE GRADUAL REMOVAL OF CONSTRAINTS ON COMPOSITION OF NATO FORCES PARTICIPATING IN EXERCISES CONDUCTED ON NORWEGIAN TERRITORY. WE HAD SUPPORTED THE PREVIOUSLY LONG-STANDING NORWEGIAN POLICY OF REMOVING ANY VESTIGES, BOTH IN PRINCIPLE AS WELL AS PRACTICE, OF DISCRIMINATION TOWARD THE FRG. THIS DECISION WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT UPON BOTH GERMAN PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT AS TO GERMANY'S ROLE IN THE ALLIANCE AND ACCEPTANCE AMONG ITS ALLIES.

-- IT IS PARTICULARLY DISTURBING THAT PRESS ACCOUNTS
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ATTRIBUTE THIS SHIFT IN POLICY TO SOVIET PRESSURE APPLIED

DURING THE RECENT INFORMAL MEETING IN HELSINKI OF SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER WITH NORDIC LEADERS.

-- NORWAY'S ACTION IS AT ODDS WITH A BASIC PURPOSE OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE: TO PROVIDE ITS MEMBERS THE MEANS TO FEND OFF SUCH SOVIET PRESSURES. ONE MUST ASSUME THAT SOVIETS WILL VIEW THIS ACTION AS A SUCCESSFUL RESULT OF PRESSURE TACTICS, EMBOLDENING THEM TO PRACTICE THIS WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY.

-- THIS CEILING OBVIOUSLY DEGRADES ALLIANCE READINESS.

-- WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED PRIOR CONSULTATION IN THE ALLIANCE ON A MATTER OF SUCH IMPORTANCE AND POSSESSING SO MANY RAMIFICATIONS, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE NORWEGIAN DECISION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN TWO MONTHS AGO.

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EXERCISES, TROOP DEPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: <CONCATENATED>
Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MPSTRUTZEL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780049-0634
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OSLO 364, 78 USNATO 680, 78 USNATO 809
Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: MPOL, DA, GE, NO, MPOL, NATO
To: BONN OSLO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
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20 Mar 2014
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